

IMPASSABLE

Impassable is a journal of postal Diplomacy published and edited by John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013. Phone: (717) 249-1343, between 9 and 10:30 p.m., E.S.T., on weeknights except Mondays. Sub to Impassable is 12/\$2.00. A shorter sub is available at 6/\$1 for newbloods. This is a tri-weekly zine, a subsidiary of Chapel Hill Publications founded in March of 1972.

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GAME OPENINGS

IMPASSABLE. Only 1 spot left in the 3rd Experienced Game. Will go very soon, so you might as well as forget it unless you're willing to try. First one with experience and a check wins. Fee is \$7.00 regular or \$8.00 for guaranteed issues covering whole game provided you don't drop out or quit. Newblood Game #9 is open, but only 4 spots are left! Newblood #10 is being organized by IDA Novice Packet Co-Chariman, Joel Klein. Gamefees are the same as above.

Openings elsewhere follows:

LOST HORIZONS. Another gamezine by myself. The only openings are those for a postal, multi-player, fog-of-war game of Bull Run (SPI's). GF is \$1.50. Inquire!

FANTASIA, #1. Jim Lawson, 3508 Benton Drive, Calgary, Alta., CANADA T2L 1W8. Has game openings in combined game of Midgard-Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) games. There will be approximately 30-40 players. This is not Diplomacy! For fantasy fans only. Inquire.

RUNESTONE, #57. John Leeder, 4910 20A St., SW, Calgary, Alta., Canada T2T 5A6. This is John's new main zine (Runestone was a small side zine before) after he has completed his move. His old zine, Arrakis is now under new publishers back in Huntsville, Ont. Has openings in a Geriatrics Game (you have to be over 30--this means, I suppose, that the hobby is beginning to mature. By the way, I'm not eligible!) A Western Canada game with 2-week deadlines--must be from Man., Sask., Alta, or B.C. only. Virgins Game for North Americans, 3-week deadlines--must be a virgin in the game! Gamefees will be \$2.00 plus a sub. Sub is unknown. Inquire!

SPECULUM, #10. Dave Kadlecsek, 1447 Sierra Creek Way, San Jose, CA 95132. Openings in regular Dippy (GF of \$1.50 plus sub), Third Age (GF of \$1.50 plus sub), YV (GF of \$2 plus sub), and Fish's Delight (Scacchomacy) (GF of \$0, but sub). Bourse is available for subbers free. Sub is 10/\$2 or 10/\$2.30 airmail. Ditto.

ARRAKIS, #42. David Head, Box 1231, Huntsville, Ont., Canada POA 1K0, et al. Mimeo. Openings in regular dippy, Atlantica I and YV. GF is \$6 or \$5 if IDA member.

EN PASSANT, #58. Greg Warden, 804 S. 48th St., Philadelphia, PA 19143. Openings in regular dippy. Players who are not currently in EP must pay \$3.00 deposit to be refunded when game is finished. His openings are otherwise free. Mimeo.

LIAISONS DANGEREUSES, #50. Lenard Lakofka, 644 West Briar Pl., Chicago, IL 60657. Ditto. Novice games (GF \$6, \$8 airmail, \$11 foreign). Subs are 8/\$2.00. Again active in publishing.

THE MASTER MACHIAVELLIAN, #5. Michael George Homeier, 238 N. Bowling Green Way, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Ditto. Subs are 12/\$2.50. GF is \$1.00 (\$1.50 for Colonia) plus sub. Openings in Colonia and regular dippy.

PAROXYSM, #1. Robert Correll, 44 Rawlinson Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4P 2M9. Others include Doug Ronson and Harry Drews. Hmmm... just read, all subs and gamefees to Harry! P.O. Box 282, Kitchener, Ont., N2G 3X9. Ditto. This is a new zine combining the three editors' previous individual zines. Has openings in Napoleon's Europe. GF is \$5.00 refundable deposit returned if you don't drop out. Also, you pay 15¢ per turn with 2 turns per game year (send lump sum and ol Harry will keep the records!), MUST NOT send U.S. cheques. I guess that means we Americans will have to pay in Canadian funds. By the way, guys, whom am I now trading with?

ZGANUNBCBADSH, #1. c/o The Underground, 1625 E. San Martin Ave., San Martin, CA 95046. Ditto. Sub is 6/190¢. GF is \$1.00 plus sub. for reg. dippy. Uses prophetics.

The EXPONENT, #8. c/o David Gladstein, 2475 W. 16 St., Brooklyn, NY 11214. Mimeo. Subs are 10/\$1.00. Openings in dippy or anything provided a GM is willing to do it. No GF, but you must maintain sub.

GASSED, #1. D.J. Truman, R.R. #2, Guelph, Ont., Canada N1H 6H8. Computer printout.

(cont. next page)

OPENINGS, -CONT.

Sub rate is \$2.00 in Canada, \$2.50 per year in USA. Openings in reg. dippy for \$5.00 GF. Note that above rate for USA is airmail. Prize dippy GF is \$12 with 1st getting \$25, 2nd-\$12, 3rd-\$6, 4th-\$3, 5th-\$2, 6th-\$1, 7th-\$ zilch.

TURNABOUT, #5. Peter Berggren, Davistown Schoolhouse Rd., Orford, NM 03777. Sub is 10/\$2.00. Openings in reg. dippy for GF of \$1.00 plus sub. Game length sub are \$4.00. Middle Earth V, GF \$1.25 plus sub. Colonial Variant, \$2.00 + \$2.00 if brought into Turnabout, a "play-test" game.

CARN DUM, #10. Ray Heuer, 102-42 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Mimeo. Has openings in variants only: 30 Years War, Excalibur, Wars of the Roses, Downfall, Westphalia VIII, and in Origins. Subs are 10/\$2.00 until 2/1/75 when it will be 8/\$2.00. GF are \$3 for Origins and Minor Powers in 30 Years, and \$5.00 for everything else--including Wolfpack which is, however, \$5.50 including game-length sub. GF will rise to \$5.00 and \$7.00 respectively, doesn't say what for Wolfpack.

NEWS OF THE DIPLOMACY HOBBY And Some Plugs.....

Quite a bit to print here, folks! It has been some time since last issue of Impassable and while we were on our vacation (my machine and I), the hobby kept marching on to its greater glory.....so, we present the NorthEastWestSouth coverage of Dippyland.

* * * * *

First, how about a plug for The Times? Published by Nick Ulanov, 334 Foulke Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540, the zine doesn't carry games, but it does carry the author's comments on many things on literature and the artty crap so much admired by snobs in general (and New Yorkers too). However, since I was born in North New Jersey, I must be a snob also and so I do like the stuff. If you want to become a snob and gain some self confidence for your games (don't ask me how that makes sense) then subscribe to The TIMES (not to be confused with the New York TIMES) for the paltry sum of 6/\$2.00. So, sub and help the finance the liberal establishment at Princeton! Well, to be friendly about it, the zine is a personal one and I cannot yet say in which direction it will go in future

issues, but it would be worth a minor education in editorial psychology to find out!

Another new zine, The Cepheids, is definitely not for us or our readers since it is for the "newbloods"! Published under the authority of IDA Novice Committee, the zine is a welcome addition to the educational work the committee does for the newbloods. Our congratulations go out to the trio: Joel Klein, Robert Correll and Jim Lawson! By the way, if you want your game openings advertised, please send your information on your zine, sub, gamefee, openings, etc. to Robert Correll, 44 Rawlinson Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2M9 or to Joel Klein, 62-60 99th St., Apt. 1220, Rego Park, NY 11374.

An excellent piece of work is the 1974-75 INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION CENSUS put out by Census Director (IDA), Paul E. Boymel, 3001 Voazey Terrace, N.W., Apt. 1014, Washington, DC 20008. I cannot say enough for this outstanding individual effort! Paul has done a magnificent job collecting and typing out all the names and addresses! If you want a copy, send \$1.00 to Paul Boymel. If you're across the sea, send \$2.00!

THE PUBLISHER, by Robert Lipton, Box 360 Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042, sells for \$1.00. This is the whole shebang which appeared in Robert's Mixumaxu Gazette. If you like to read sharp witty humor on various hobby people written in play-form, this is for you!

Robert Sacks, Miller Number Custodian for Orphans and Statistics, has been hard at work. Just received the first issue of Phoenix under his jurisdiction (formerly under the Chairmanship of Richard Vedder, Robert is now the Chairman of the IDA Variant Committee. He is doing one heck of a job in pushing for recognition, that is, proper and more recognition for variants which has long been overlooked by everyone including the IDA. If you want to follow along with the discussions on variant problems, send Robert Sacks, MNC, 15-F Tang Hall, 550 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, MA 02139 a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Another individual doing a lot of work has been Greg Warden, who is the Orphan Master/Director for regular dippy games. He has already transferred more than 10 games recently, and is pushing for a greater recognition of game insurance under IDA auspices. For more details, please read his letter elsewhere in this issue.

Dan Gallagher has not been idle with his work on the North American Variant Bank.

(cont. page 5, col. 2)

NEWBLOOD GAME #8

WARRING COUNTRIES ELECT LEADERS:

As we go to press, the seven major powers of Europe have elected war cabinets and leaders. They are as follows:

AUSTRIA: Michael Hinmon
8117 Heatherton Lane, #103
Vienna, VA 22180

ENGLAND: Thomas Cooper
Oberlin College #525
Oberlin, OH 44074

FRANCE: J.L. Kirk
3415 Charleston St.
Annandale, VA 22003

GERMANY: Allan Amer
465 Shore Rd., Apt. 5-U
Long Beach, NY 11561

ITALY: William Young
P.O. Box 907
Clearfield, PA 16830

RUSSIA: Alex Sabo
2302½ Donald Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509

TURKEY: Lee Kendter, Jr.
4347 Benner St.
Philadelphia, PA 19135

The Preference list was the below table in which a few countries were in much demand, causing one player to end up with his 6th choice. Unavoidable.....that's the way the coin flips!

Amer	R G F E T A I
Hinmon	none submitted, gets A
Sabo	R F E T G I A
Cooper	E F T A G I R
Kirk	F R A E G I T
Young	R F T G E I A
Kendter	E T G I F R A

Gentlemen, your first deadline is being set 6 weeks in advance to allow more than the usual time for your initial negotiations. Good luck in your wars, gentlemen! (Doug, we need a Boardman Number for this one!!)

SPRING 1901 Orders are due Friday, February 28, 1975 at noon, E.S.T.

1973Ddl, Spring 1023

NEW KING OF MUNSTER FINDS GOING ROUGH WHILE SCOTLAND FORCES ITS WAY INTO SUTHERLAND!

Note: Bob Fanelli is the new player for Munster. Thanks, Bob!

Spring 1023:

KYMRU(Gemignani): A Bue-Car, A Her-Pow
LEINSTER(Fujihara): A Mea-Cas, A Uri-Mea,
A Tar S A Uri-Mea, F SIS-NSG
MUNSTER(Fanelli): A Ern-Ros/r/(Tyr, OTB),
F Wex H, F Mid-Tua, F GaB S F Mid-Tua
ORKNEY(Keller): F CaB-SIS, F Arm-Mou, A Oma-
Ern, A Don S A Oma-Ern, A Spe-Oma,
A Ros S Scot F Law-Tua, F Iat S F WMI-
Nat, F WMI-NAT, F SlB-Bre, F Sky-Min
SCOTLAND(Tonnesen): A Che-Gwy, A Sta-Glo,
A Shr-Her, A Car-Wic, A Ang-Mea, F Law-
Tua, F Isl S A Lis-Sut, F Sol-Man,
F Dub S A Car-Wic, F NSG C A Car-Wic,
F Mon-CaB, F Dun-NIS, A Lis-Sut, A Yor-
Cum

SUMMER & FALL 1023 due Friday, February 7, 1975 at noon, E.S.T.

Press--

Kymru: The opening night of Great Stone Key Club was attended by Mal the Knife, Old Lucy Brown, and the Cenors. The high light of evening was a raid by League of Irish Minstrels on tussle raid. It was broken up by the Great Stoned Stone.

Limerick: In this southeastern country of Eire, There lately has been quite a scare, That uncivilized hordes, Would devour the board, And catch Munster's force unaware.

Stonehenge: The Great Stone woke up with a roar. It seems some local natives were spouting poetry in his presence! Hath the Stone spake: "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Sugar is sweet, and so will you be when I'm done with you snippersnapper of a mortal bag of skin and bones! You won't know what has \$\$\$%% to you!" The other great stone spake, "Hush, don't speak so foul in front of our little Stoney, you might corrupt him!" The Great Stone replied, "What do you women know about poetry and foul language? I bid you silence!" No more was heard.

1970BJ, Spring 1914

EUROPEAN WAR RUNS INTO ITS 14TH YEAR--ITALY DEFENDS TERRITORY TENACIOUSLY AGAINST ALL ENEMIES. AUSTRIAN EMPEROR TO MARRY DUCHESS OF MOSCOW IN ROYAL WEDDING NEXT SPRING!

AUSTRIA(Beyerlein): A Mun S Ger A Kie-Ruh,
A War-Sil, A Liv-Mos, A Tri-Tyr, A Boh
S A Tri-Tyr, A Vie S A Tri-Tyr, A Ser-
Tri (cont. next page)

A Alb S A Ser-Tri, A Gre-Ser, A Bul H
 ENGLAND(Keller): F Lon S Ger F Bel-Eng
 GERMANY(Mahler): A Kie-Ruh, A Ber-Kie, F Hol-
 Nth, F Bel-Eng
 ITALY(Phillips): F Nat S F Wal-Lvp, F Wal-Lvp,
 F Eng S F Nwg-Nth/r/(Pic, Bre, Mid, Iri,
 OTB), F Nwg-Nth, A Pic-Bel, A Par-Bur,
 A Bur-Ruh, A Tyo-Mun/r/(Pie, OTB), A Ven
 S F Adr-Tri, F Adr-Tri
 RUSSIA(Kelly): F Edi S Ger F Hol-Nth, F Cly-
 Nwg, A Nwy-Fin, F StP(NC)-Nwy, A Yor-
 Wal, A Con S A Smy, A Smy S A Con

SUMMER & FALL 1914 due Friday, February 7, ,
 1975 at noon, E.S.T.

1972BG, Summer & Fall 1913

AUSTRIA SUFFERS SETBACKS IN HOLLAND, GREECE
 AND BLACK SEA, BUT UNITES HOMELAND AGAIN!

Summer 1913: Italy R A Tri-Alb; Russia R A
 Mos-StP

Fall 1913:

AUSTRIA(Ball): A Gre-Alb/a/, A Rum-Ser, A
 Gal-Rum, A Tri S A Vie, A Vie S A Tri,
 A Mun-Tyr, A Ruh-Bur, A Hol-Kie, A Pru-
 War, A Mos S A Pru-War, A Sev S A Mos,
 F Bla-Bul(ec)

ENGLAND(Swies): F Nat-Mid, F Lvp-Cly/r/(Nwg,
 Wal, OTB), A Yor-Edi, F Lon-Nth

ITALY(Hrbek): A Alb-Gre, F Aeg S A Alb-Gre,
 F Nth C Rus A Nwy-Hol, A Bur-Ruh, A Par-
 Bur, A Pic S A Par-Bur, F Cly-Lvp, F
 Iri S F Cly-Lvp, A Tyr-Tri, A Ven S A
 Tyr-Tri, A Pie-Tyr, F Con-Bla, F Ank S
 F Con-Bla

RUSSIA(Fish): F Bel S A Nwy-Hol, A Den H,
 A StP-Mos, A Liv S A StP-Mos

AUTUMN & WINTER 1913 due Friday, February 7,
 1975 at noon, E.S.T.

Fall 1913 Supply Center Chart:

Austria: Vie, Bud, Tri, Ser, ~~Gre~~, Bul, Mun,
 Rum, Ber, Kie, ~~War~~, Sev, Mos (12)
 Bl, lost 1

England: Edi, Lon, ~~Den~~, ~~Lvp~~ (2) R2

Italy: Hom, Por, Spa, Tun, Mar, Smy, Con,
 Bre, Par, ~~Tyr~~, Ank, Gre, Lvp (14) Bl

Russia: StP, ~~Mos~~, Swe, Nwy, Bel, Hol, Den
 (6) SP, no open home centers to build.

Press--

Rome, September, 1913: Italian strategists,
 although slightly dismayed by the minor set
 backs suffered in the Spring Campaign, were
 encouraged by the ever strengthening strategic

position of the Italian-Russian Allied
 Forces. The fast approaching destruction of
 the last Austrian fleet has raised hopes for
 an early victory in the Balkans. King Ginzo
 still retains some hopes that the Austrian
 government will surrender before it becomes
 necessary to destroy all Austrian units.

1972BW, Autumn & Winter 1913

VERY LITTLE ACTION--ALL QUIET ALONG THE FRONT!

Note: I just realized that this was a simple
 winter situation. My apologies for not having
 combined Spring 1914 with Winter 1913.

Autumn 1913: Italy R F Ion-Nap

Winter 1913:

FRANCE(DePrisco): SP

GERMANY(Davies): SP

ITALY(Swies): SP

RUSSIA(Knudsen): B F Sev

TURKEY(Abbott): SP

SPRING 1914 due Friday, February 7, 1975 at
 noon, E.S.T.

Winter 1913 Positions:

France: F Bar, F Nwg, A Pie, A Bel, F Nth,
 F Eng, F Hel, A Hol, A Ruh, A Bur (10);

Germany: A Den, A Ber (2); Italy: A Kie,
 A Ven, F Adr, F Nap, F Tun (5); Russia: A
 Liv, A Sil, A Mun, A Tyr, A Vie, F Nwy, F
 Ska, F StP(NC), F Sev, F Bal (10); Turkey:
 A Tri, A Boh, A Ser, F Ion, F Alb, F Gre,
 F Aeg (7)

1973BU, Autumn & Winter 1917

ISN'T IT GOOD TO BE BACK???

Note: John Hulland, R.R. #4, Guelph, Ont.,
 Canada M1H 6J1 is the new player for Italy.
 Thanks John!

Autumn 1917: England R A Mos-Sev (gains Sev)

Winter 1917:

AUSTRIA(Tonnesen): B A Vie

ENGLAND(Greenwell): B A Lon, A Edi

FRANCE(Chin): Out!

GERMANY(Barents): B A Ber, A Kie

ITALY(Hulland): SP

RUSSIA(Hendry): SP (lost Sev in Aut. '17)

TURKEY(Blank): R A Con

SPRING 1918 due Friday, February 7, 1975 at
 noon, E.S.T.

Winter 1917 Positions next page:

Austria: A Alb, A Gre, A Ser, A Vie (4);
England: F Spa(SC), F Mid, A Por, A Sev,
 F Bar, F Nwg, F Eng, F Lvp, A Lon, A Edi (10);
Germany: F Gas, A Mar, A Bur, A Boh, A Mun,
 F Hol, A Ber, A Kie (8); Italy: A Tri, A
 Tyr, A Pie, F NAF, F Wes (5); Russia: A Mos,
 A Ukr, A Rum (3); Turkey: A Bul, F Aeg, F
 Ion, F Bla (4).

Press--

London(EPI): It was revealed today in the Commons, that King George had (on the advice of His Prime Minister) personally appealed to the new Pope to reconsider his predecessor suicidal move westward. Noting with regret past differences between Italy and England, His Majesty concluded by expressing His hope for a lasting settlement of Anglo-Italian differences.

Impassable: I presume everyone has been paid back? Some have requested use of the refund for gamefees here in CHP, but I hope all players have been covered. Let me know if I have forgotten your refund!

1974HN, Spring 1901

FRENCH REPUBLICAN FORCES DEFEND HOMELAND
 AGAINST AGGRESSIVE KRAUT INVASION! WAR!!!!

AUSTRIA(Osmanson): A Vie-Gal, A Bud-Ser,
 F Tri-Alb

ENGLAND(Fujihara): F Edi-Nwg, A Lvp-Yor,
 F Lon-Nth

FRANCE(McKeon): A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur,
 F Bre-Mid

GERMANY(Kelly): A Mun-Bur, F Kie-Den, A Ber-
 Kie

ITALY(Tonnesen): A Ven-Tyr, A Rom-Apu,
 F Nap-Ion

RUSSIA(Blank): A Mos-Sev, A War-Gal, F Sev-
 Rum

TURKEY(Davies): A Con-Bul, F Ank-Con, A Smy
 H

FALL 1901 due Friday, February 7, 1975 at
 noon, E.S.T.

Press--

VIENNA: The Government of Austria-Hungary wishes only peace to the world and means no offensive action by the move into Galicia.
GICU: With hostile forces gathering for an outbreak of war, the ruler of this tiny kingdom mobilized all its resources for the coming conflict. Already the banner of the Golden Arches have gone up all along the border.

The Field Commander, Marshall Botstziki, noted that all the men were at their stations and prepared for the onslaught. He indicated that his men were well provisioned and were strategically located. "We expect to have every avenue of approach well covered," boasted Botstziki. He added that when war does come "we will clean up." With that he returned to man his station adding, "We serve the best swineburgers and Big Elephants this side of the world. When the warring nations march through here, we will have a landslide of business for no one can eat just one swineburger."

1974HY (Formerly Novice Game #1)

This game has just received the above new Boardman Number and will now be known as 1974HY. Spring 1901 deadline is still set on Friday, February 7, 1975! Good luck.

NEWS AND PLUGS, CONTINUED

His address is 6425 King Louis Dr., Alexandria, VA 22312. He is the publisher of Warlord, but we want to mention that Dan needs to obtain variants which he doesn't have of Diplomacy. One such variant he is having trouble in finding is the Calhamer Award winner, Intimate Diplomacy! He has also established contacts with the English bank and with a fellow in Switzerland who is trying to set up a Continental European Bank! It would seem that variants are going to have their day!

Which brings me to the Calhamer Awards Committee (IDA). The first issue of this committee was sent out about two weeks ago and so no response can yet be printed, but I am hoping to be able to print snatches of progress here in Impassable now and then. If you should have any strong opinions about these awards, please write to me! I'll take a look and see if you have something--if so, I'll be printing it in the newsletter for the committee.

Pulsipher's Second NORTH AMERICAN DIPLOMACY PLAYERS' SURVEY has just been sent to me. I don't think I'll print it in this issue, but it may be in the next issue--we'll see. I wonder when Lew will have the complete results of the first poll ready?

Getting back to the IDA, some of you have probably heard about the complaints and uproar over this year's elections, which were ran by me for the most part.

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NEWS AND PLUGS, CONT.

The matter is of the ineligibility, so to speak, of some of the candidates who ran for election. The elections has been completed, and two of these won office, but by a rather large majority if my information is correct. What will be done about these two, I do not know except I would favor re-affirming their election despite their ineligibility on two points:

1) The calling to the ineligibility of these two candidates came after they were confirmed as candidates--not before. Their ineligibility could have been noticed prior to their acceptances.

2) The ineligibility of the two candidates who won is due to their not having been members of IDA for a full year or they aren't 21 years of age.

The fact that this was a violation of the Constitution doesn't make it right, but the circumstances otherwise, in my opinion, make it acceptable for this year. Of course, with the greater awareness shown by the other candidates, future elections must be brought under tight control. When I ran it these two past times, I did it with less time than I wanted. Also, as the new representative for the Atlantic Region, I will push for election reform among other things. Having more time in not being tied down to publishing the Diplomacy Review, I expect my brain matter to produce more ideas.

Well, that about covers all the news and plugs for this issue. With the increased number of games in Impassable, these features will be alternated with each other, when space will not permit printing of both. I plan on printing the game openings every other issue and news in alternating issues with a little in all issues. Articles and letters will still be quite welcomed and they will be the vocal point of Impassable for the time being. Filler and regular features will fill out these pages.

Issue #48 should be a larger issue, if our time studies are correct, because it will be our 3rd Anniversary! This is our fifth year in the hobby as a player and our fourth year as a publisher. So, something special should be in #48--right now it looks like we'll print one of our older issues, if not the first trial run, now numbered as #0 and with only a very few copies in existence (I have all but one--which you can guess rests in the vaults of the Hoosier Archives of Lebanon, Indiana. We beseech for articles for that special issue!

LETTERS

I have two letters from Greg Warden on the subject of orphans and game insurance--they are worth reading for getting an insight into those problems facing our hobby!

Letter #1: "...As it happens, the running of orphan games is the most important of all the hobby services. When a gamesmaster takes over an orphan game, usually undertaking to foot all the expenses himself, he is not just helping the seven (or less) players involved, but is also helping out the whole hobby.

Orphan games and the financial and moral default of many postal Diplomacy publishers are the biggest problems facing the hobby at the moment. If Diplomacy is to survive and grow the problems must be solved or at least alleviated. The Orphan Games Project helps a bit, but only deals with the symptoms and not with the causes. The IDA insurance project is our best bet, but it has remained in the background, mostly due to insufficient publicity. In any case, something has to be done about it soon. The continual irresponsibility of so many gamesmasters and publishers is literally giving the hobby a bad name. To support my point, let me quote in full a letter that I recently received from a player whose game (1973FA) I was transferring:

"I do not wish to continue in 1973FA. " " by James Massar has stopped coming with better than 8 months sub left. The Fighter's Home stopped coming after I received a mere 5 issues (I paid \$8 for a game and 1 year sub) plus the Rigot when this game had just started. To sum it up, I have had three Dippy zines go sour on me inside an eight month period. Therefore I am giving up postal Dippy." signed Larry E. Yeargan.

See what I mean? Larry also forgot to add that Sinai, the game that his game was transferred to, also folded. That makes four zines that "went sour" on him. I really can't blame him for giving up the game. And what about other new players who fork up large amounts of money for games or subs in such supposedly "first rate" publications as FIGHTER'S HOME and EL CONQUISTADOR? How do you think they feel when the zine and their money disappear? And what will one of these new players think when he sees that Gordon Anderson, the very same publisher who disappeared with his money, is running in the IDA elections?"

After some comments in reply, Greg sent
(cont. next page, col. 1)

LETTERS, CONTINUED

me a second letter continuing in his general discussion of the above problems.

Letter #2: "I think you underestimate the importance of the IDA insurance program. The point of this program is that the players, as well as the publisher, can insure the games. Every player should make sure that his games are insured. In view of the high cost of gamefees right now, the two dollar insurance fee is a bargain, especially if more than one of the players split the cost. I feel that the IDA insurance project should get more publicity: players are just not taking advantage of it.

I would also recommend to all publishers, no matter how established or reliable, that they use the system that I am going to use for my new games in the future. I am going to charge my players twenty-five cents each above the cost of the gamefee. This money, plus twenty-five cents of my own, will go toward payment of insurance. Thus, for minimal cost, the players will be guaranteed a game that will be published until the end.

I think that the IDA should strongly recommend this system to all its member publishers.

In the future I also plan for the Orphan Games Project to take a stronger hand in the problem. In the past, the project, as I have emphasized many times before, has cured the symptoms and not the problem. Now, to cure the problem itself, I plan to publish a list of publications which are "safe", "good bets", or "bummers." The safe publications are those which through some system make sure that all their new games are insured by the IDA. The good bets are those that, although their games are uninsured, have such good records that their future is not in doubt. Examples that comes readily to mind for this category are GRAUSTARK, or your own zine, Impassable, for that matter. The bummers are those publications that I consider on the verge of disaster. Naturally this last category is particularly subjective and may lose me some friends. However, it may also stir these "unsafe" publishers into action that will make their magazine safer, such as insuring their games.

Now obviously this list of mine will be of little use to established players who know what's going on anyway. It will prove extremely useful, however, to newcomers who often have no idea of what zines are trustworthy. There I would like to devise some way to get this information to these new-

comers. Got any ideas? Doesn't the IDA have some sort of newcomer's program? I will also ask other publishers to reproduce my list occasionally to keep others up to date. ((See page 2 in the news on the Novice zine being published by IDA's Novice Committee.))

Well, these are just a few ideas, and as I said above, any sort of publicity would help. I'd also be interested in any ideas that your readers might have on the subject."

In Reply: The reason that the IDA Games Insurance doesn't work spectacularly is the general lack of interest in it. Perhaps publicity would help, I don't know, Greg. There is at least one point against it: Your second category of publishers, the "good bets" are the ones who would know best about how important this is. The "bummers" are bummers because they don't care what happens--do you expect them to lead the way for game insurance? I think that the players will have to be the ones to insure their games in these "bummers" if they want to insure games they're now in.

The "good bets" like myself don't see much of a need to insure their own games. I am not about to charge more money on top of my already high fees! However, I would not oppose any group of players coming to me for a .25¢ contribution and they provide the rest of the \$2.00 for insurance. But I would not force on them.

On another field, there are several independent groups insuring their own games. I know of the Michigan Organized Wargamers group who insure their own games. Then, not too long ago I got a brief printed letter from Bob Lipton for an Atlantic Insurance Program. Both of these are insurance programs relying on mutual self-help in a group of publishers. This is opposed to the money/fee system being operated by the IDA.

The last thing which bothers me is that these orphans are coming mostly from the "bummers"--exactly the ones who won't implement your proposed system of adding insurance on top of the gamefee! If it is going to work, it will have to educate the publisher or get through to the players.

For the record, any of my players who wish to insure their games in Impassable or Lost Horizons, please let me know and I'll see what can be done about it. I'll bring it up in the game report and we can take a vote. If there's enough willing to pay, we can split the costs even-Stephen. Okay?

* * * * *

Well, we found that letter from Andy
(cont. next page, col. 1)

LETTERS, CONTINUED

Phillips which we couldn't find for last issue! For your benefit, people, here is the letter:

From Andy Phillips: Your example ((Impassable #444)) reinforces Doug's point, not yours. The nerd who, in all the time it would take England to become an overpowering force, can't think up any better strategy than to engage in trench warfare against third parties, is a first class example of a Diplomatic zero who shouldn't be rated any other way.

If defeating Russia and Italy "doesn't" stop you or Austria from being defeated by England," then maybe you had better get your ass on the ball, realize that your "brilliant" strategy wasn't as brilliant as you thought, and start writin'em instead of fightin'em.

Not only does your example contradict your point, but you were knocking down a straw man anyway. No one has said that there are not "games in which one could not win." In fact, I habitually attribute all my losses to such circumstances. If Doug wins '70BJ it will obviously be because my natural allies were unreasonable or unreliable or both. That's the party line. And true, too.

What I have said is rather than there are not "games in which the best one can possibly hope for is second place in a loss." The enemy has to get pretty close to 18 before you can't even hope to stop him, and it's certainly not the usual situation for a replacement player. Nor is that the time when people suddenly start looking for second place.

The player who ends up with the most units among the losers is not necessarily or even probably better than the rest. Reread Doug's letter in #40. Repent, ye sinner! In Reply: Okay, let us suppose that in '70BJ that you lose the game. Would that make you no better than France? Granted that there are those who opt for second rather early in the game--even before they lost the chance for first, but who is to say who had a chance or did not? Diplomacy is a very difficult art to master or control. I could not tell you exactly when I lost my games or won them. We must move away from arguing on grounds of tactical wins or losses. The game is won on Diplomacy. A player may not be losing tactically--at the moment--but he may lose the Diplomacy war not due to his own lack of ability to persuade, but due to his opponents having already set their minds on to eliminating you!

There is also another factor in a game

which would confuse the actual point of a victory "for sure" and that is the momentum in a game. A player can have 16 units or 15 units--I don't care about the number--and he is close to winning by number of centers. But, he loses nevertheless because he has lost his momentum due to any set of factors involving diplomacy or tactics. A player may have stabbed to reach 17 and then finds all of Europe united against him for that dastardly deed!

To me, you can't win the game unless you have the momentum. The really good players KNOW how to hold onto their momentum. They KNOW what they have to do in order to get the momentum--the right allies, the right moves and so on. A good player can also tell when he has lost his chance for first.

You mean to tell me you can never tell when you will have lost a game and the best is second? You are saying that you can never tell if you'll lose until you do lose! You are precluding any possible future knowledge or ability to figure the end results out of a current set of circumstances! That can't be!

If good players can tell what they need to do, they can also tell when they can't do what they need to do to win. Then, and at that point, those who would normally go for a win (thus excluding the habitual second place finishers) would settle for second, rather, to secure the best finish left to them.

Don't tell me I won't know that ahead of the end! Do not confuse this with the idea of "giving up" when you "could have won" bit.

In my games I have won a few and I have lost more. I knew in all those games when I had no chance to win, and all those in which I couldn't be stopped--at less than 15 units. I have even won games with only 13 units! I don't win tactically, I win with the name of the game--Diplomacy. That is also psychology, Andy; if you can get them to think they will lose even though you have only 13 units, then you have won the diplomatic war. After all, this isn't just a tactical wargame--this is DIPLOMACY! Comments from anyone?

Well, that wraps up the letters for this issue. I want to thank Greg for his insight on the orphan/insurance problems, and I apologize to Andy for not having found his letter until now.

So, send them stuff in to me. I also can use articles! Repent, ye sinners!!

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

CHAPTER THREE

Leslie D. Torgen, Lt. Col., United States Air Force Space Command, serial number S03172999, age 26, present assignment, command pilot of the cargo ship USS431JS. That's what his military 201 file read, in part. No doubt an ammendment had been

included that read, "Missing in space, presumed dead", or something to that effect.

Born the fourth son of Leslie Torgen he was awarded the middle initial "D". It didn't stand for anything, since he had no middle name. His father happened to have a rather peculiar fondness of the name Leslie, and each of his five sons were so named. Each of his sons were uniquely indentified with a middle initial starting with "A". Thus, Torgen was letter "D".

For some unknown reason his uncle Warren Torgen took a liking to him. And when Torgen decided on the Space Command for a career, Uncle Torgen set the wheels in motion. Being an intermediate level politician with a little pull, Uncle Warren guided Torgen's career.

After graduation from the Space Academy as a 2nd Lieutenant, he was assigned, as most new grads were, to the moon shuttle division. But unlike most new grads, every 13 or 14 months, Torgen received a promotion and new assignment. Uncle Warren had more pull than Torgen suspected.

As a result of his uncle's pull, Torgen, at the young age of 25, achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel in the incredibly short time of 4 years and 5 months. And along with the promotion he received command of the USS431JS operating between Earth and the science station on Ganymede, second largest satellite of the planet Jupiter.

Normally cargo ship duty was thought of as mundane and a drawback to the advancement of a career. But since Ganymede represented the deepest penetration into space, even cargo duty to Ganymede was considered a glittering form of status. And even at only 26, Torgen looked forward to a promotion to the wings of a full colonel in another year or so. With his uncle's help, of course.

He could not know that his 6th trip to Ganymede would terminate the way it did. Initial launch from Earth was completely routine. The only difference between this launch and the five previous ones was that on this trip he would stop over at Mars for two days to pick up a consignment of psion. The landing on Mars and subsequent relaunch were also uneventful. All systems were normal with no hint of a malfunction anywhere.

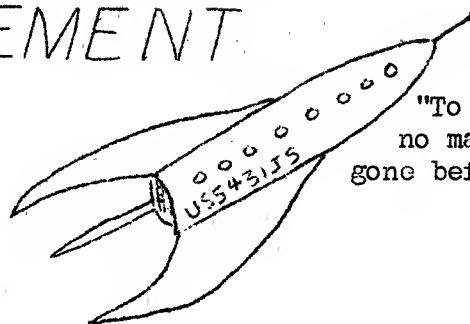
When he launched from Mars, Torgen was roughly 400 million miles from Jupiter, taking into account that Jupiter was hurtling along in its orbit. His intercept point was computed to where Jupiter, and thus Ganymede, would be in its orbit by the time Torgen arrived. And with the cruising speed of one million miles per hour, plus the enormous gravitational pull of Jupiter itself, the ten powerful psionic engines would take only 14 days to get the ship there.

The first 11 days of the trip were uneventful as Torgen busied himself with the few chores required of him. Checking the rows upon rows of guages, switches, lights, and levers took up about half of his waking hours. The other half was spent either by reading technical manuals or relaxation. Although the trip to Ganymede was synonymous with boredom Torgen did not let it bother him. He knew that at the end of the trip he could look forward to 3 months of duty studying the king of planets at close range.

Day twelve began as the first eleven. Torgen arose, had a light breakfast, read a tech manual on the Xarrax computer, then began the tedious job of checking 837 items which required his personal inspection. With his clipboard in hand, Torgen headed for the tail of the ship, deciding to begin his checklist with the powerplants and work his way back up to the command room.

Leaving the control room, a quick look at the speedometer informed him he was cruising thru space at a hearty 1.4 million miles per hour. The gravitational pull of Jupiter became, in effect, an automatic overdrive.

Torgen was passing the #4 cargo compartment, about two-thirds of the way back, when it happened. The emergency klaxon warning began blarring throughout the ship. --to be continued



"To go where
no man has
gone before."

EDITORIAL 1974

This being the first issue of Impassable for 1975, I thought it would be kind of nice to ramble about last year, 1974, for I am one who lives in the past (or way in the future for the present is always too boring!) such as in the Civil War, but for this brief column, I'll stick with 1974 in our great Diplomacy hobby (did I hear groans of pained thoughts or shrieks of satanic delights?).

Yes, 1974 was a vintage year! Issues #31 through #44 were published in 1974 which meant that we printed only 14 issues--a slow year for Chapel Hill Publications. Overall, for all of our first three years, the average comes to 17 issues a year (if I stick to the schedule until this coming March). Not too bad considering problems ran amuck in 1974!

Groans runs through the mind when thinking of the 1974 IDA Handbook. That was some job! Running 80 pages in approximately 250 copies took quite a lot out of my arms. I had trouble lifting the diplomacy pieces at the Chicago DipCon soon after.....

The Chicago orgy was a nice one--the third in a row there. Each year was nice, but I really enjoyed last year's because I really knew the people there.

Ah yes, quite interesting that DipCon was. To me it is very enjoyable to partake in the human drama of diplomacy employed by us supposedly expert diplomats. I made a wisecrack, I believe, to Nick Ulanov that we ought to give an honorary award to Henry Kissenger as the Best Diplomat for 1974, but not enough people there like Henry so that was dumped.

For the second time in a row I visited the Buchanans in Indiana on the way to the Chicago DipCon. For the second time in a row I met Doug Beyerlein there after for the second row in a time I got lost in Lebanon, Indiana (a haystack in a haystack of needles, if you'd ask me), and for the second time in a row we put together copies of the annual (Annual?! Arrggghh!! My poor arm!!!) issue of the IDA Diplomacy Handbook. In many ways it was a repeat of the pleasures of 1973.

Chicago was the turning point. Before then I wasn't doing too bad for 1974, but afterwards I really got "socked to it". A long decline, it would appear, began with Chicago which was really already in progress prior, but didn't become public until then.

Aquarius (I named that one after my birth sign for I was born on February 6th), proved to be too much while I was also putting out Impassable, Lost Horizons, Diplomacy Review

and the annual (groan!) IDA Diplomacy Handbook. I was figuring out how many pages I was printing and Conrad von Metzke, the all-time volume publisher was astonished! So was I.

I mentioned my publishing volume to Walt Buchanan and he told me I was in the top ten of all time publishers. Thanks. Just what I wanted to be, one of the ten weirdoes to have gone wacky on account of printing ink odors.....

Yeah, I was beginning to feel like a hypochondriac! I mean, here I was sitting each day (after 8 hours sitting at work) for 4 hours typing with a bent back, bent fingers, screwed eyesight, inhaling the flammable (highly flammable) stencil correction fluid and getting high on it. Besides that, when I ran off the copies, my parents would open the upstairs windows and doors to help disperse the odor of the printing ink. I think I remember reading somewhere about Social Security benefits for Printer's Ink disease of the lungs....

Yeah, like I spent over a thousand dollars in equipment and supplies (previously printed in some back(ward?) issue of Impassable--you look it up, I don't have time.....) and realize a net loss of about \$500.00 because the United States Post Office raised their price of a stamp from 8¢ to 10¢. God! You don't know how many rolls of stamps I use each month! (Each roll, remember kiddies, has 100 individual stamps--ever try licking 120 stamps in one hour? You're so thirsty afterwards that 3 bottles of diet Pepsi won't quench it...)

We shouldn't forget all those nice, long, long, letters I sent to all of my friends in reply to their letters.....I was beginning to wonder by November, 1974 just where all my time was going. I mean, here I was doing my best to cut back on publishing, cutting out of the egotistical and powerful position as Editor of IDA, taking it easy, or trying to, and I was still in a constant jam! So, I started a survey this January on my mail volume. You want to know how many letters I have already written? (You don't? You crum....) 57! And, that's the damn truth (See, I mean it, it isn't always that I would swear in print) Now, if that would be true for all of 1975 that would mean I will write by December 31st 1,098 letters....don't forget that 1975 is a leap year! If I had written at the current rate for 1974 it would have been only 1095--quite a Great Leap Forward I'm taking for 1975, right?

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EDITORIAL, 1974, CONT.

Well, 1095 letters for 1974 means I would have spent approximately \$109.00 alone for stamps of my personal letters. Sending out 14 issues of Impassable would be roughly 1,700+ stamps (imagine licking all those stamps in a year!). Well, I now go to my family doctor for tonguenitis (inflammation of the tongue) and have shots in the gums to reduce glueing my teeth together (I'm not that desperate to lose weight....).

Yes, 1974 was a memorable year. One electric typewriter worn out, a part never replaced in my mimeo machine, 100+ copies of the Handbook still to put together (I do them when the sales come in), 6 new filing cabinets to hide all the junk mail I got in trade for the junk I put out, licking 1700 stamps for Impassable alone, not counting those for Lost Horizons, Diplomacy Review, Aquarius, or Diplomacy Handbook nor personal letters..., buying over 100 reams of paper (that is equal to buying over 50,000 sheets of paper), over 60 quires of stencils (a quire is 24), lord knows how many tubes of that printer's ink--I think I'll save them and sell them to a metal dealer for their aluminum contents.....

Yeah, and I had to get involved into Civil War also! Before last summer I wasn't much different from any other wargamer mildly interested in history of war, now I have to read an hour a day on Civil War history....go ahead, ask me a question and I would answer it most likely....I am even printing civil war anecdotes! I'm running my first game of Bull Run by mail, I have bought over \$200.00 of books on the Civil War period and haven't read $\frac{1}{4}$ quarter of them.

You know, I think I'm crazy! Oh well, it was a fun 1974, maybe I'll live long enough to enjoy 1975? Sigh....

IDA 1974 DIPLOMACY HANDBOOK

Did you have a lousy Christmas? Go buy yourself a 1974 IDA Diplomacy Handbook! We all know it isn't tax deductible, but maybe you all can claim insanity? Don't forget, this real bargain of a buy is inflation-proofed at \$2.00. We are abiding by the 1974 Federal Anti-inflation Act--we are whipping inflation now! Why don't you enjoy the whipping? Buy yourself a copy for \$2.00 (non-IDA members pay \$3.00) and whip yourself in the pocketbook. Make it a check to IDA and send it to me in Carlisle--that way I rip IDA out of its dough.

A SURPRISE MISSIVE

It is a good thing that I didn't finish this issue of Impassable! Today I was very surprised to receive a letter from the Chairman of the Board of The Diplomacy Association, John J. Beshara. Normally, I wouldn't print such a damaging (to him) letter, but it is typed, For Publication.... so, if he wants to have it published, I couldn't be happier! So, here it is in full:

"Please excuse the typing of this missive, as the strings of my puppets are entangled.

Am gratified you "again" apologized in IMPASSABLE #44 for your degnigration of THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION. Your apology does not tingle my chromosomes because I, unlike you, am factual. When you claimed in IMPASSABLE #43 you had been a member of THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION, you knew you were lying and I knew you were lying, but you persisted in your fallacious "apology" by failing to inform your readers you have never been a member of THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION.

How you managed to "jump" from TDA to the schismatics without joinging (sic) TDA is akin to claiming "virginity" while being a little bit of a whore.

Frankly, my dear, THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION is restricted to courtesans!"

* * * * *

Well, the above "missive", despite its obvious attempt to mingle half-truths and lies with fancy and obscure words is not more than what it is: crap. My apologies in Impassable were only for being "rude" and a trifle overzealous coupled with lousy humor (I never was much of a comedian--and my favorite comedian is Don Rickles which might go a long way to explain my humor...). But, when John Beshara (I do hope this isn't a nasty trick in faking a letter from him?) writes the above and asks me to print it, I could simply not refuse! His letter speaks for itself better than any of my own warnings of TDA!

Just to be totally fair, I am printing my own letter in reply to his above letter:

"I accept your excuse for the typing of your missive. Perhaps the "tangled web" your puppets weave has also caused you to lose your 1971 membership list? If TDA weren't so private with their membership lists, more people would be able to prove that I was indeed a bonifide member of TDA

(cont. next page, col. 1)

THE SURPRISE, CONT.

in 1971! Since you must have lost your own top secret files, I can't prove it to you except to show you my own copies of the WAZIR which came out in the months of May, August and December of 1971. However, I am a collector of oddball items and do not wish to part with them. If you desire, I can send you a xerox copy of one of them.

So, I wish you would please apologize for calling me a liar as I was telling the truth about my one-time membership in TDA.

The reasons for jumping from TDA to IDA were that you or your "puppets" never released membership lists nor held elections during the time I was a member. About the only concrete products I have ever received while a member were the three issues of WAZIR-- mostly a John Beshara forum to expound on his writing talents.

I again wish to excuse you for your missive. Though I will treasure the letter as additional proof that you, John Beshara, exist on this earth, I will not so readily accept your own description of TDA's members. To quote from your letter, "Frankly, my dear, THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION is restricted to courtesans." The underlining of the last word is mine to place emphasis on the word. I thought I was right about the meaning, but just to be sure of it I looked it up: Courtesan ('te-zan), n. a prostitute; a court mistress. Despite your vivid description of TDA members, I still claim to have been a member in 1971 of TDA. It was when I found out what it really was that I "jumped" to IDA. I have never regretted that jump. A man under vicious attack show the courage and strength to last it out...he will go out with dignity." Printed in The Washington Post of Feb. 24th. The President referred to was Nixon.

Just for the record, I am offering to trade with you the membership of IDA (1974) for the TDA membership of 1974. Make that an even swap, what do you say?

In conclusion, it was a most lovely brief feud with you, sir. I remain at your service, Sincerely yours, John Boyer.

* * * * *

Mr. John Beshara is quite welcomed to send me more letters to print as I do enjoy them! This little feud, if you want to call it that (gee whiz, my first!), is between me and Mr. Beshara. If anyone else wants to call me a liar or claim something erroneous about me, I reserve the right to refuse to comply as one feud is enough for one person at any one time.

One more apology is made for the bluntness of my reply. I normally do not write or reply bluntly, but I just happen to be in a nasty mood (which is rare). Next time I may just be nice! #end#

ZIEGLER'S PROPHECY

There isn't enough space left due to the above special letter to Impassable, so I'll see if I can mention something read in the last PARADE magazine. Press Secretary Ziegler said on Feb. 24th, 1974: "Do you know where I will be on Jan. 20, 1977? I will be standing on the inaugural stand with the President of the United States as the new President takes his oath of office. I will look out over those stands and see all of the people. And I will know that I have seen a man under vicious attack show the courage and strength to last it out...he will go out with dignity." The President referred to was Nixon.

IMPASSABLE #45
117 Garland Drive
Carlisle, PA 17013

Your sub is kaput____
Wahna trado?____
You are John Beshara____
You are Richard Nixon____
Will you stand-by for____?
All games are reported in
this issue--see your game
report!
Remember, it is only a game!

Rod Walker
4069 Jackdaw St.
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